Examption From wearing Helmets in Delhi

1625. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for religious reasons some men and women are exempted from wearing helmets while riding a scooter or motorcycle in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it becomes risky for such individuals when they do not wear helmets; and

(d) if so, why other individuals are not required to wear the same?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) In accordance with provisions contained in section 129 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1986, every person driving or riding (otherwise than in a side car, on a motor cycle of any class or description) shall, while in a public place, wear a protective headgear confirming to the standards of Bureau of Indian Standards; provided that the provisions of this section shall not apply to a person who is a Sikh, if he is, while driving or riding on the motor cycle, in a public place, wearing a turban; provided further that the State Government may, by such rules, provide for such exceptions as it may think fit. The said law is applicable throughout the country and is not restricted to National Capital Territory of Delhi alone.

Direct Negotiations with Terrorist Organisations

1626. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have direct negotiations with various terrorist/ militant organisations in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) At present, direct negotiations are underway with NSCN (I/M).

The Government are committed to hold talks with the insurgents to establish peace and normalcy in the North Eastern States. The Prime Minister in his Press Statement at Guwahati on 15th April, 1998 had stated "To all those who have strayed from the paths of togetherness, whether in Assam or other States of the North East, I extend an invitation; come forward; let us discuss, my Government is committed to holding talks to a restoration of peace; let us do so within the four corners of our Constitution.

Terrorism in States

1627. SHRI RAJUBHAI A PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of terrorist activities during last three years, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the number of citizens/terrorists and security personnel killed and loss of property;

(c) the present state of affairs in each affected State;

(d) the details of assistance provided by Government, State/Union Terriroty-wise;

(e) the steps taken by Government to check recurrence of such incidents;

(f) whether some persons have been displaced due to these incidents; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The information is being obtained from States/ Union Territories and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) There has been an overall improvement in militancy related situation in Jammu and Kashmir. In North Eastern States, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura continue to be affected by insurgency in various degrees. Law and Order situation in other States is, by and large, peaceful.

(d) A statement indicating the funds released to various State Governments, under the Scheme for modernisation of State police forces, during the period 1996-97 to 1998-99 (upto 5.3.1999), is given in the Annexure *(See appendix 186, Annexure No 31.)*

(e) 'Public Order' and Police' being State subjects, it is for the concerned State Governments to devise various methods and take concrete steps in this regard. At the Central level, action is being taken to facilitate coordination of the anti-terrorist operations of different States and to improve flow of information useful for control of their activities among the States. Further, help is being provided to the State Governments in terms of financial assistance for modernisation of police, supply of improved weapons, deployment of para military forces etc. In certain special circumstances, financial assistance has also been given to some of the affected States over and above the on-going allocation for modernisation of police and supply *of weapons.*

(f) and (g) As per available information 1455 migrant families have registered themselves in Jammu Division during the last three years. The information regarding North-Eastern States is being obtained and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Non-Conventional Energy Sources in Rural Areas

1628. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 30 per cent of rural households have access to electricity;

(b) if so, how Government propose to provide energy sources to the rest of the rural masses;

(c) whether there is any proposal to develop
non-conventional energy sources in a big way; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI PR. KUMARA-MANGALAM): (a) As per the Census of India (Housing and Amenities Paper 2 of 1993), based on 1991 Census, over 30% of households in rural areas were reported electrified.

(b) Provision of energy/electricity of homes in rural areas is the responsibility of the States/ State Electricity Boards in whose jurisdiction these areas fall The time frame for electrification would depend upon the priority accorded to electrification in the States, factors like availability of resources for creating the required infrastructure alongwith the availability of power and demands for power from rural households.

(c) and (d) With a view to meet the energy requirements of the rural areas the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources have initiated a wide range of schemes/programmes to generate and utilise Non-Conventional Energy Sources. These include socially oriented programmes such as installation of biogas plants, improved chulhas, biomass gasifiers, briquetting plants, solar thermal water heating systmes both domestic and industrial, solar photovoltaic energy-based rural home lighting, solar lanterns, water pumping for irrigation and village level power plants.

In addition, the Ministry is encouraging generation of grid connected power from wind energy, small hydro power, biomass combustion/bagasse-based co-generation, solar photovoltaic energy and energy from urban and industrial wastes, throughout the country. For this, higher subsidy/incentives have been announced under many major programmes of the Ministry for people living below the poverty line, members of Scheduled Castes and scheduled Tribes. The Ministry also provides higher subsidy/incentives in view of higher capital cost on account cost on account of remoteness and difficult logistics of hilly regions, Islands and North-Eastern States.

Completion of Vishnu Prayag Project in U.P.

1629. SHRIMATI MALTI SARMA:
PROF. RAM BAKHSH SINGH VARMA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state: